

REMARKS

The Examiner has maintained all of his objections that the claims are obvious over a combination of two references. The first is U.S. Patent No. 6,448,866 to Watanabe and the other is International Patent No. WO2002/012916 to Sweeney. In effect, the Examiner has noticed the integrated terminations of Watanabe and the removable terminations of Sweeney, put the two together, and alleged that the claims are obvious.

However, applicant submits that the Examiner is mistaken to do so. The claims, and the circuit in Watanabe, relate to MMIC circuits. Sweeney does use a MMIC circuit, but not for the part of the circuit that has the isolators. Page 11, lines 3-5 states that the “monopulse” 40 may be provided as an MMIC. In Fig. 1, this is shown as a discrete unit at the distal end of the circuit from the isolators 22. That same page, at lines 22-30, goes on to discuss that it is desirable to be able to remove the terminations. However, these terminations are not in the same part of the circuit that is formed of an MMIC.

This can be seen more clearly with respect to Fig. 2 of Sweeney. The isolators are identified at page 13, lines 26-30 as corresponding to item 55 in Fig. 2, but with reference back to the embodiment of Fig. 1 relied upon by the Examiner. In this, it is apparent that the isolators are provided with the ferrite isolators in waveguide and so the terminations on the isolators are much bulkier and hence manageable than MMIC terminations would be. The Examiner’s statement that “Sweeney provides the general teaching of removable resistive terminations on an MMIC” is incorrect, as Sweeney employs terminations of a different nature. It would not be possible to integrate a waveguide termination into a MMIC circuit.

It is well known that waveguide terminations are removable. What it is not well known, or as in any way obvious, is the use of MMIC integrated and removable terminations. Terminations in MMIC are a lot smaller than in waveguide. Also, by integrating a termination, the skilled man would realize that components in such a circuit are unlikely to be removable. Indeed, applicant has proposed a method of laser cutting to remove the termination which would not be needed in the waveguide case. It is not therefore valid to take the teaching from waveguide terminations and apply them to MMIC ones.

Accordingly, given that the Examiner's analysis of the teaching of Sweeney is incorrect, the objection to the claims must fall away as it is not permissible to take a teaching from the waveguide art and apply it to MMICs in this manner. Claim 23, and the remaining claims as dependent therefrom, are therefore novel and non-obvious.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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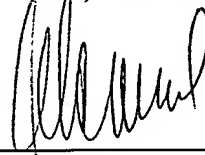
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